

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending in this application. Claims 22-30 have been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 1 through 20 would be allowable if independent claims 1 and 12 were rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicants also respectfully submit that claim 21 includes allowable subject matter at least by virtue of its dependency on independent claim 12.

In addition, Applicants further submit that new independent claims 22 and 27 recite features, which the Examiner indicated were not anticipated or rendered obvious by the prior art in pages 4-5 of the Office Action. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 22 and 27 are in condition for allowance. Applicants also submit that claims 23-26 and 28-30 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on claims 22 and 27.

Specification

The Examiner has objected to the specification because the pages are not numbered and the application does not contain an Abstract. Although Applicants respectfully submit that the specification, as filed, includes page numbers at the top of each page, a replacement specification is being filed concurrently herewith in which the page numbers have been moved below the 2.0 cm margin of the top of each page, as required by 37 CFR §1.52. Also, a new Abstract of the Disclosure is attached to this paper on a

separate sheet. Accordingly, withdrawal of these objections is respectfully requested.

Section 112 rejections

Claims 1-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite based on elements recited in claims 1, 4, 8, 11, 12, 14, and 21. Applicants respectfully submit that these claims have been amended to provide sufficient antecedent basis and appropriate meaning to the features recited in these claims. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

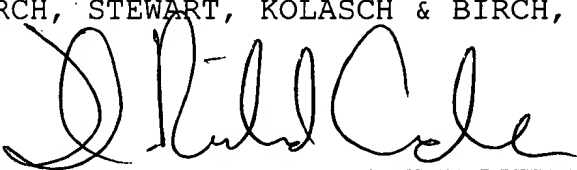
In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants earnestly seek a Notice of Allowance with respect to claims 1-30. Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Jason Rhodes (Reg. No. 47,305) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Appl. No. 09/555,809
Reply to Office Action of July 2, 2003
Atty. Docket: 3606-0102P

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 

D. Richard Anderson, Reg. No. 40,439

GR
DRA/JWR/mpe/slb
3606-0102P

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Attachments: Revised Specification
Abstract of the Disclosure